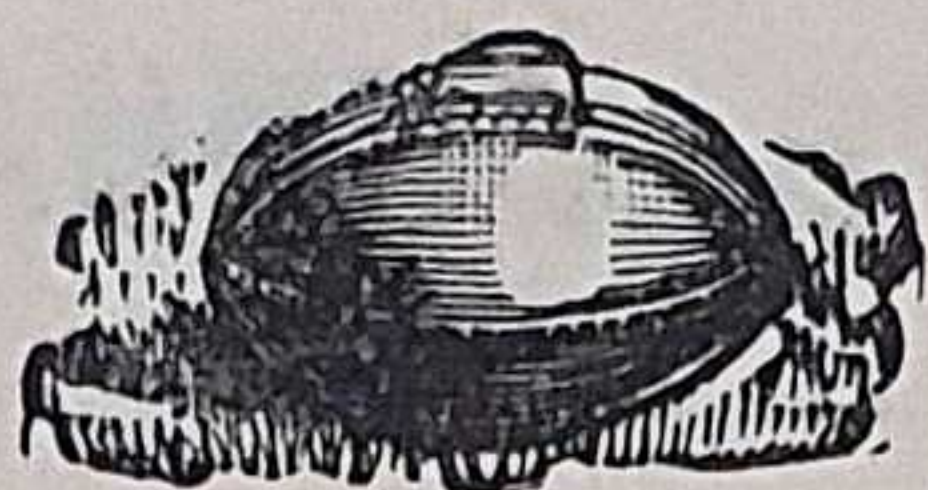




Western Australian
Football Association
Annual Report
1905

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West Australian Football Association.



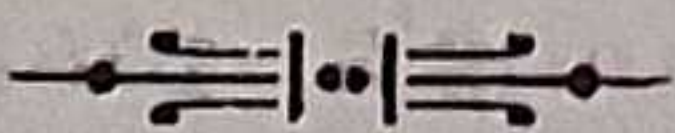
ANNUAL REPORT



FOR THE SEASON 1905.



**Presented and Adopted at the Annual Meeting held
at Perth, March 28th, 1906.**



**Report of Representative appointed to represent
the Association at the Australasian Football Con-
ference, held at Melbourne, Nov. 8, 9, & 10, 1905.**

THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT,

SEASON 1905.

PRESENTED AND ADOPTED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD
AT PERTH, MARCH 28TH, 1906.

Never in the history of Football in this State has such a successful season been experienced as was that of 1905. From a sporting, financial, and patriotic standpoint, the members of the Association and lovers of the sport must feel gratified with the success which has attended the administration of our national game within the area under our control. No previous year has been characterised by such marked progress, such intense enthusiasm and consistently even contests as the past season has witnessed ; it is therefore with inexpressible pleasure that the year's report is presented.

PREMIERSHIP CONTESTS.

The Victorian League's method of conducting the contests—though much misunderstood at the beginning of the season—added considerably to the interest surrounding the struggle for the coveted premiership position, and the results should ensure the permanent adoption of the system. What in the ordinary course would have been the final match of the season resulted in a draw, necessitating a "Re-Play Contest," which furnished an incident worthy of record inasmuch as it is without parallel in the history of Australian Football. The culmination of a season of superb struggles was the capture of premiership honors by the West Perth Club, with East Fremantle as "runners-up." One of

the most gratifying features of the contests was the improvement in the standard of football shown by the North Fremantle and South Fremantle Clubs, notably the latter, which, from last place in 1903, next to bottom in 1904, won its way to fourth position in 1905. In accordance with custom, the premier team tried conclusions with the leading Goldfields team for the State Championship, resulting in victory for the metropolitan combination, which thus secured the dual honors of Coastal Premiership and State Championship.

PLAYING GROUNDS.

The lack of an up-to-date playing ground in the city was again forcibly illustrated. The accommodation, appointments and the playing arena under unfavorable weather conditions proved altogether inadequate to supply the needs of a modern capital enjoying such progress in other matters as does the city of Perth. The experiment of playing premiership contests on the new grounds at Subiaco and Midland Junction was tried, and in the case of the former proved premature, while the use of the latter ground resulted in a dead loss. There are, however, good prospects, with the increase of population in the railway suburb and the strengthening of the local team, that matches there will eventually be conducted without loss. Remembering that in football matters sporting considerations must outweigh those of finance, it will be readily agreed that the Midland Junction ground deserves further consideration, if for no other reason than to encourage the youngest club in the Association. The prospects are that with the State Show Ground at Claremont and the East Fremantle Reserve becoming available, the question of grounds will not remain the acute problem that it has been in the past.

THE APPEAL BOARD.

The appointment of an Appeal Board to deal with offending players has proved a distinct advance, mainly owing to the appointment of Messrs. J. R. Bolt and F. Gill, who, with their chairman (Mr. R. A. Sholl), have given general satisfaction.

RETIREMENT OF OFFICERS.

The Association was unfortunate in losing two of its officers by retirement--Mr R. A. Sholl (President) and Mr. J. F. Dwyer, who had acted as Secretary for five years. The latter gentleman's services were suitably acknowledged by the Association.

FINANCES.

As will be seen from the balance-sheet, after meeting a number of unusual items of expense in addition to unsettled accounts incurred by the 1904 Association, amounting to £29 17s. 6d., the season closes with all liabilities discharged, and also with a substantial credit balance. As showing the steady progress of the popularity of football, the under-noted table of figures showing the gross gate receipts for the the last four years is interesting :—

1902—£1308; 1903—£1424; 1904—£1605; 1905—£2269.
(Shillings and pence omitted.)

The dividends paid to Clubs show a relative increase, and are as follows :—

1902—£582; 1903—£653; 1904—£670; 1905—£972.

It will be seen by the foregoing that though the receipts were charged with an unprecedented expense in connection with the Schools Junior movement, and with an expenditure (additional) involved by the employment of boundary umpires amounting to Fifty Pounds, the Clubs have received an increase of nearly 50% over that of the previous year. This furnishes the best reply to the few club officials who criticised the financial administration of the Association.

COUNTRY ASSOCIATIONS.

During the year the Associations affiliated were Albany, Bunbury, Collie River, Eastern Districts, Geraldton, Great Southern, Murchison, and Nelson. From all of these bodies reports of satisfactory progress were received, showing that the advancement of the game is not confined to the metropolis.

JUNIOR ASSOCIATIONS.

From the three grades of Junior Associations in the metropolitan area, reports of solid advancement have been submitted, and the financial assistance rendered by this Association was greatly appreciated.

COLLEGE ASSOCIATION.

The three Perth Colleges—Guildford Grammar School, Christian Brothers' and Scotch Colleges—played only the Australian Game. The premiership caps presented by the Association were won by the Guildford School team.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL.

The department of the Association's work which deals with Schools Football is the one which undoubtedly shows the most pleasing results. The ground which, owing to a variety of circumstances, had been lost by our game among the schoolboys has been almost wholly recovered, chiefly owing to the loyal manner in which the lads responded to our efforts to place the game of their own land in the foremost position. The generous assistance rendered by a number of head masters and teachers must also be gratefully recorded, for without their co-operation little headway could have been made. Delegates from Clubs are to be congratulated upon the liberal manner in which they dealt with the suggestions of the Schools Committee, thus enabling its members to successfully conduct the work of organisation, etc.

THE YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE.

In connection with the schools the formation of the Y.A.F.L. was the most important innovation, and the success which has attended its first year's existence augurs well for its future usefulness. In conjunction with the Association a team of boy footballers from the goldfields spent a week in the metropolis, during which three matches were played. A combined Perth-Fremantle team visited Bunbury to meet the schoolboys there, and were entertained by the local Association. The premiership medals of the Perth Division of the League were won by the Newcastle Street School, and those of Fremantle by the Adelaide Street boys. The latter also won the League's Championship Pennant, which, together with the medals, were presented at the conclusion of the final match by the Hon. W. H. Kingsmill, M.L.C. Minister for Education and Patron of the League. That the system of playing the school matches prior to the senior fixtures adds to the attractiveness of the day's programme is evidenced by the crowds which assemble early in the afternoon to witness the juvenile contests. A record taken at the Fremantle Oval on an ordinary day showed that over 1500 people had paid for admission before 2.30 p.m. Reference must be made to the good work done for the League by Mr. Jas. Wall in his capacity as schools organiser.

BUSINESS TRANSACTED.

The increase in business transacted by the Association is the greatest on record, matters submitted from country Associations being unusually numerous. Some idea of the

volume of business dealt with may be gained from the fact that the general meetings alone totalled 30, while the outward correspondence on all subjects reached over 500 pages.

AUSTRALASIAN CONFERENCE.

An event of importance in the history of Australian Football was the National Conference held at Melbourne in November last, at which the Association was represented, with the result shown in a separate report adopted by the Association.

THE GAME IN AMERICA.

In reply to a letter sent to Mr. E. L. Wilson, Secretary of the Victorian League, suggesting that advantage should be taken of the desire in the United States for a changed football code to introduce our game, that gentleman states that the head coach of the Winsconsin University, who is an Australian, writes that a number of teams under Australian rules will be formed during the American Spring. Should the introduction be a success, one of the grand possibilities of the future will be international contests between Australia and the United States. The prospects of a game of purely Australian origin being adopted in America will no doubt be pleasing to Australians throughout the Commonwealth.

NEW CLUBS.

The coming season will no doubt open with the usual number of applications from clubs to enter senior ranks. It will be generally admitted that the maximum clubs will not exceed eight for many years, and before a new admission to complete this number is agreed to, the locality from which the eighth club will come must receive first consideration. Viewed in the broadest interests of the game, the next team should be formed in Claremont, where it could enjoy a separate "home" ground and training rooms in a town where a large measure of local support would be assured. Even though one or two seasons may elapse before the area of which Claremont is the centre can send out a team, the wisest policy would appear to be to reserve the eighth vacancy until such time as a combination from that town is ready for admission to senior ranks.

THANKS.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the President (Mr. R. G. O'Neill) and members of the Association generally for the generous assistance received at their hands; also Mr. Moffatt, who acted as Secretary during my absence at the Australasian Conference. To Mr. E. Udy, the Association is greatly indebted. In his capacity as Treasurer, he has, perhaps unknown to most members of the Association, spent more time for the advancement of the game than any other honorary member or officer, and for his earnestness and attention deserves the thanks of all lovers of the game.

OUTLOOK FOR 1906.

The outlook for the coming season is reassuring, and with an Association composed of members resolved upon a wise choice of central and subordinate Umpires, a determined course of action against any tendency to professionalise the game, a judicious treatment of applications for permits, and the same fostering care of the schoolboys and juniors as characterised the past year's work, the upward progress of Australian football must be assuredly maintained within the area under our control.

J. J. SIMONS,

Secretary

Adopted.

R. G. O'NEILL,

President.



AUSTRALASIAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE

Held at

Melbourne, 8th, 9th & 10th November, 1905.

REPORT OF REPRESENTATIVE APPOINTED BY THE WEST AUSTRALIAN FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION, PRESENTED AND ADOPTED AT A SPECIAL MEETING HELD AT FREMANTLE MONDAY, MARCH 19TH, 1906.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,—

I have pleasure in presenting to you the report of proceedings of the Australasian Football Conference, at which I had the honor of attending as your representative.

REPRESENTATIVES.

As will be seen from printed copy of minutes attached, all the States of the Commonwealth, and also both Islands of New Zealand, were represented.

AUSTRALASIAN COUNCIL.

The most important proposition brought before the Conference was that providing for the formation of a Council. The new body was unanimously supported, chiefly for the reason that, the game now having followers throughout the Continent, it is essential—if its identity is to be preserved in every State—that rules governing it should be uniform in all parts of the Commonwealth. All being agreed as to the importance of preserving the game against any tendency to alter its features in any one State, it was thought that the best method to secure this end was to vest the power of alterations or amendments in one Council, consisting of representatives from the premier controlling bodies of all the States. Associations joining the Council will, of course, abide by any rules or amendments framed by that body, and make it a condition of affiliation with all other Associations to do the same, thus ensuring a uniform observance of one code of rules. The Council will also act for the general advancement of the game in matters affecting more than one State, but will not have jurisdiction over the internal affairs of Associations. Meetings will be held in turn at the various capitals of the Commonwealth. It is not proposed that the Council should meet at frequent intervals, probably about once in two years. The inaugural meeting will be held in November of this year.

CONSIDERATION OF LAWS.

The laws of the game were reviewed and discussed at some length, and agreed to with the amendments and additions recorded in minutes. Your representative endeavoured to secure the insertion of the Westralian rule which penalises a player for kicking to the danger of an opponent, which is also observed in South Australia and at Broken Hill. A division having shown the voting to be equal, it was eventually resolved to refer the matter to the first meeting of the new Council for definite settlement. It will be noticed that Law 1 sets down a fixed size for the ball to be used. This is the standard size of Australian-made balls, and is now insisted upon in Victoria and New South Wales. Law 5 stands as printed, with addition of a sentence making it more explicit. Law 7, as amended, sets out definitely that in the case of a "free" kick for infringement it must be given to the player nearest the ball at the time of infringement. Under the old rule the best "kicker" in the team usually obtained the "free," thus giving his side an advantage not intended by the rule.

BOUNDARY UMPIRES.

Representatives from all bodies employing boundary umpires favoured a continuance of the practice, and a definite set of rules for the guidance of these officials was agreed to.

It was the wish of the Conference that the laws amended as shown above should be considered and placed before the Council for final adoption, after which they will be unalterable except by that body.

PERMITS.

In the rule adopted relating to permits, the word "July" has been substituted for that of "August," thus making it necessary for an interstate player to land during the first week of April to qualify for a permit. The ease with which players can obtain permits in States where two important Associations exist—such as the goldfields and our own—was thought by most of the representatives to operate to the detriment of the game. Informal suggestions were made to enforce a three months' residence qualification to discourage migratory players. This would probably have found expression in a resolution were it not that members of the Conference were reluctant to move in a direction that

might appear to be an interference with the internal affairs of individual States. Your representative, however, promised to bring the matter under your notice.

QUESTIONS OF LOCAL ORIGIN.

The following debatable questions which occurred in 1905 were submitted for opinions to the Conference:—

- (1.) Is it permissible for one player to leap on another's shoulders for the purpose of impeding a ball in transit when being kicked off after a "mark"?—Ruling in the affirmative.
- (2.) May a player stand on the goal-line to obstruct or divert the course of the ball when being "kicked off" after a behind?—No; the ball must not be hindered when in transit from such a "kick off."

It will be remembered that the two foregoing questions arose in connection with the East Fremantle v. North Fremantle final match.

SCHOOLS FOOTBALL.

It is interesting to observe that the fostering of football in the schools has become a prominent feature in the administration of the game in the Eastern States. In Victoria the League pays special attention to the schools, whilst in New South Wales both the Australian and Rugby officials make school football an important part of the year's work.

THE YOUNG AUSTRALIA LEAGUE.

It is pleasing to note the interest that our distant sister Associations are taking in our Young Australia League, which has become widely known through the booklet issued by the Association, and also through visitors from Westralia. Members of the Conference were lavish in their praise for the work done by the present Association among the schools and juniors, and unanimously adopted a resolution recommending that all controlling bodies should form divisions of the League wherever practicable. Mr. E. L. Wilson (Secretary of the Victorian League) and also the New South Wales delegates, would like to see a team of the Young Leaguers visit the East for a month's tour during the coming season, and should circumstances appear favorable a scheme will probably be outlined within the next few months.

FUTURE OF THE GAME.

From reports submitted by the representatives the game is making great strides in all parts of the Commonwealth, and the two only States where it is not yet supreme are rapidly coming into line. Returns from the mother State, once the unchallenged home of the un-Australian codes, are especially reassuring, for last year our national game had no less than 154 teams, an increase of 37 over 1904. With the steady growth of an Australian national sentiment, which is surely asserting itself even in sport, the prospects are that Australian football will secure the premier place in the two remaining cities—Sydney and Brisbane—and that a few years will see it in a position of undisputed supremacy from coast to coast. The year 1908 being the golden jubilee of Australian Football, we, with other States, will be asked to co-operate in a monster national carnival to be held in Sydney or Melbourne to compete for the Commonwealth Championship, which will probably be inaugurated in that year and played for annually in turn at the various State capitals.

THE FOUNDER OF THE GAME.

Mr. H. C. A. Harrison, the founder of the game, who has been designated "The Father and Emperor of Australian Football," and who presided over the Conference, was the central figure of the gathering. The grand old veteran is the most respected personage in Victorian athletic circles. It is possible that Mr. Harrison will visit the West during the present year.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, I wish to thank yourself and the members generally for the confidence you all expressed by appointing me to act as your representative at such an important gathering.

The Conference will, I believe, result in the general advancement of our national game, for the further elevation of which its controllers in all parts of United Australia will henceforth strive with even greater unison than has characterised them in the past.

J. J. SIMONS, REPRESENTATIVE.

